

DISTRICT
76

Legislative Update

REPRESENTATIVE SULEMAN LALANI, M.D.

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor to represent YOU, the constituents of Texas House District 76, in Austin, and to collaborate with you to improve our district. Your stories and experiences have greatly influenced our work at the Capitol. Over the past year, I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you, hearing your stories, understanding your struggles, and feeling the passion that drives you. These experiences have deeply humbled and inspired us. This newsletter aims to provide updates on the legislation we have worked on and passed, the organizations, community groups, and individuals that our office has engaged with, and our future legislative priorities.

During the 88th Legislative Session, 36 pieces of legislation bearing my name as author, co-author, joint author, sponsor, or co-sponsor were signed into law, along with two riders on the state budget. These bills span a wide range of topics, including healthcare, mental health, education, technology, support for senior Texans, and local governance in Fort Bend County. They tell a diverse story, reflecting the service to each resident of House District 76, one of the most diverse districts in Texas. Our diversity is a source of strength. You are a model of what Texas and America should be.

As we prepare for the 89th Legislative Session, our office is laying the groundwork for our next legislative agenda. In the meantime, we have the opportunity to study issues and formulate ideas during this interim period. Promoting gun safety, protecting public education, and expanding healthcare access while advancing women's health remain at the forefront of our priorities. These critical areas are where your input and support will make a significant impact as we work together to build a safer, more educated, and healthier community. Your emails, phone calls, and voices are crucial in shaping our legislative agenda, so please take a moment to let us know the issues that are most important to you by connecting with us.

When people elect a representative, they are not granting power or authority, but rather placing their faith and trust. This compact guarantees my commitment to represent each and every one of you. I encourage you to engage with our office and become a leader on issues that matter to you.

***Remember, this is your Government. You are the most important part of the process.
Get involved, stay involved, and make your voice heard.***

Thank you for the trust you placed in me to represent you. I remain committed to serving as your voice and working tirelessly to improve the lives of our constituents. Together, we can continue building a brighter future for House District 76. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if you need assistance.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suleman Lalani".

Suleman Lalani, M.D.
State Representative • House District 76



88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS RE-CAP

In our first legislative session, we achieved significant milestones for House District 76, demonstrating a deep commitment to both longstanding and emerging community needs. As your state representative, I advocated for substantial improvements in healthcare, education, mental health, technology, senior care, and local governance.

Healthcare Improvements

Healthcare was a top priority for us. As a result, we were successful in passing a number of bills and budget riders that aimed to enhance the accessibility and quality of medical services throughout the state of Texas.

✓ **HB 1 Strategic National Stockpile for Health Emergency Preparedness Rider:** This critical amendment to the Appropriations bill will allow Texas to secure federal funding to build a stockpile of medical items for future health emergencies. Establishing this strategic reserve, ensures that Texas is better equipped to respond swiftly and effectively to any public health crises.

✓ **HB 1 Family Practice Residency Program Budget Rider:** Another amendment to the Appropriations bill that allocates \$2.5 million each fiscal year to the Family Practice Residency Program. This funding is aimed at retaining Texas-trained physicians within the state, ensuring that our communities benefit from a steady supply of skilled medical professionals.

Expanding Healthcare Access and Advancing Women's Health

Access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right, and women's health is a critical component of this. In the upcoming legislative session, we will work to broaden healthcare coverage, improve mental health services, and support maternal and child health. Additionally, we will advocate for comprehensive healthcare services, including reproductive health, support women's health education, and ensure access to necessary medical resources. Expanding healthcare for all residents and advancing women's health are essential for promoting community well-being and empowering individuals to lead fulfilling lives.

✓ **HB 12 Postpartum Medicaid Expansion:** Extends Medicaid benefits for new mothers from two months to 12 months postpartum, significantly enhancing maternal healthcare. This extension ensures that new mothers have access to essential medical and mental health support throughout the first year after childbirth.

✓ **HB 25 Importation Of Certain Prescriptions From Canada:** Directs the Health and Human Services Commission to allow for the importation of prescription drugs at reduced costs from countries other than the United States, primarily Canada.

✓ **HB 49 Hospital Investigation Disclosure Act:** Increases transparency by making hospital investigation processes, outcomes, and final reports publicly accessible, thereby holding healthcare facilities accountable to high standards of care.



Rep. Lalani spoke at Baylor Internal Medicine's Grand Rounds, sharing his journey from physician to legislator and emphasizing the importance of political engagement in advancing healthcare.

✓ **HB 617 Next Generation 9-1-1 Telemedicine Project:** Supports the continuation of a pilot project that uses telemedicine to provide advanced care during emergency medical responses, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

✓ **HB 755 Prior Authorization:** Simplifies the healthcare process for patients with certain chronic conditions by reducing the need for repeated prior authorizations for their treatments. It minimizes bureaucratic delays, making it easier for patients to get the care they need promptly and consistently, thereby improving overall patient care and experience.

✓ **HB 916 Contraception Access:** Requires Medicaid and insurance providers to supply an entire year's worth of birth control in one go. This mandate makes it much easier for users to access contraception and helps ensure continuous usage without gaps.

✓ **SB 186 Hospital Discharges:** Ensures that patients are discharged only to properly licensed facilities. This measure reduces hospital liability and enhances patient safety by ensuring that discharged patients receive appropriate care in qualified facilities.

✓ **SB 189 Boarding Home Regulation:** Enhances safety and welfare in boarding homes by imposing penalties on operators who fail to report known instances of abuse.

✓ **SB 240 Workplace Violence Prevention Policy for Healthcare:** Mandates that healthcare facilities create and implement strategies to prevent and respond to workplace violence, enhancing safety for healthcare workers.

✓ **SB 840 Hospital Personnel Safety:** Increases the penalty for assaulting on-duty hospital personnel to a third-degree felony, expanding protections to include all hospital properties owned or leased.

✓ **SB 989 Coverage for Biomarker Testing:** Requires a range of health benefit plans to cover biomarker testing for the diagnosis, treatment, management, and monitoring of certain diseases, including tests for gene mutations, protein expression, and whole genome sequencing.

88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS RE-CAP

Educational Advancements

We are dedicated to improving education through transparency, accessibility, and effectiveness. We passed key legislation that equips students and educators with essential tools for success, making education more inclusive and responsive to our diverse community.

✓ **HB 8 Community College Finance Bill:** Overhauls the funding model for community colleges, introducing measures for increased transparency and accountability in educational outcomes and costs.

✓ **HB 1212 Excused Absences for Holy Days:** Protects students' rights to observe religious holidays without academic penalty.

✓ **HB 1883 Public School Examinations on Holy Days:** Ensures that critical exams like the STAAR test are not scheduled on significant religious observances, accommodating students' religious practices.

✓ **HB 4005 Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program:** Creates a fund to support students pursuing competency-based education, acknowledging and valuing real-world experience in academic settings.

✓ **HB 4363 Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program:** Provides scholarships for students who commit to teaching in critical shortage areas, fostering the next generation of educators.

✓ **HB 5330 Access to Houston Community College:** Expands access to higher education by ensuring that all Fort Bend ISD students have a local campus to attend, facilitating higher educational attainment in the community.

✓ **SB 294 Expansion of Respiratory Medication on Campus:** Allows for a broader range of medications to be maintained on school campuses, addressing the needs of students with respiratory ailments.

✓ **SB 838 Alyssa's Law:** Implements silent panic alerts in classrooms, enhancing security and emergency response capabilities in schools.

Mental Health Initiatives

Mental health remains a top priority based on the concerns expressed by many constituents. I collaborated with colleagues to enact legislation designed to ensure Texans have timely access to qualified caregivers when they need them most.

✓ **SB 26 Behavioral Health Innovation Grant Program:** Directs state funding to enhance mental health services, increasing bed capacity and improving the quality of care provided by local authorities.

✓ **SB 532 Mental Health Loan Repayment Assistance Program:** Reduces the years of service required for mental health professionals to qualify for loan repayment, encouraging them to practice in Texas. It also requires all college campuses to include as part of their campus tours, a stop at the primary mental health clinic, providing students with essential mental health information.

Technology and Infrastructure

Our efforts have propelled Texas to the forefront of technological innovation and accessibility through legislation that bolsters data security, expands broadband access, and ensures ethical advancements in technology.

✓ **HB 4 Texas Data Privacy and Security Act:** Strengthens data protection laws, by requiring businesses to adhere to stringent guidelines for handling personal information.

✓ **HB 9 Broadband Expansion:** Allocates substantial funds to enhance broadband access, aiming to connect over 7 million Texans to reliable internet services.

✓ **HB 2060 AI Advisory Council:** Establishes a council to oversee the ethical development and application of artificial intelligence in Texas.

✓ **SB 768 Breach of Security Notification:** Tightens the timeline for businesses to notify the public and authorities following a data breach, enhancing consumer protection.

✓ **SB 1238 Broadband Access:** Updates the definitions and standards for broadband access, ensuring that more Texans can benefit from high-speed internet services.

Support for Seniors

Our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our senior population has led to significant legislative advancements. These efforts aim to provide better care, increased financial flexibility, and improved safety for seniors. By addressing the unique needs of our aging community, we are ensuring they receive the respect, support, and resources they deserve.

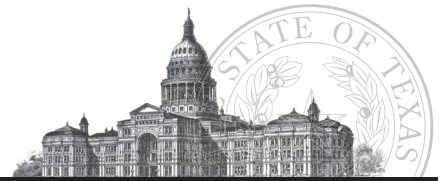
✓ **HB 54 Increases Allowable Social Security Income for Long-Term Care Residents:** Raises the personal needs allowance for seniors in long-term care facilities, providing them with greater financial flexibility.

✓ **HB 568 Alzheimer's Training for Peace Officers:** Mandates specialized training for peace officers on effective interaction strategies with Alzheimer's patients, enhancing community safety and understanding.

✓ **HB 1275 Senior Driver's License Conversion:** Allows senior citizens to convert their driver's licenses into identification cards via online or telephone services, simplifying the process and accommodating mobility limitations.

Protecting Public Education

Ensuring robust and equitable public education remains a cornerstone of our legislative agenda. As we prepare for the next session, we will focus on enhancing education quality, supporting teachers, and providing students with the necessary resources to succeed. Protecting public education is crucial for fostering a brighter future for every child in our district.



88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS RE-CAP



As a geriatric general practitioner, Rep. Lalani's key issue is taking care of seniors.



Rep. Lalani with his dog, Rani at the park.

✓ **HB 1673 Alzheimer's Training for Assisted Living Staff:** Introduces detailed training requirements for assisted living facility staff, focusing on Alzheimer's care, to ensure that caregivers are well-prepared to meet the specific needs of residents with Alzheimer's disease.

Strengthening Animal Welfare

Ensuring the humane treatment of animals is my priority, reflected in recent legislative efforts to improve regulatory standards.

✓ **SB 876 Texas Licensed Breeders Program Reform:** Strengthens licensing requirements for commercial dog and cat breeding operations in Texas by reforming the Texas Licensed Breeders Program (TLBP). The TLBP has been crucial in combating "puppy mills," where animals are often kept in poor conditions. SB 876 enhances the TLBP by preventing commercial breeders from posing as hobby breeders or hiding sales through "cash only" transactions to avoid licensing.

Fort Bend County and Local

Our focused efforts on local governance have significantly improved infrastructure and services, directly benefiting Fort Bend County residents. By addressing critical issues and implementing strategic legislation, we enhance quality of life and foster sustainable growth in our communities.

✓ **HB 5395 Creates Fort Bend County Water Control and Improvement District #11:** Facilitates infrastructure development necessary for community growth and development in Richmond, addressing the needs of one of the fastest-growing regions in the county.

✓ **HB 4250 Ad Valorem Sale Notification Postage Reimbursement:** Simplifies the tax notification process by allowing the deduction of postage costs from ad valorem sale proceeds, easing the financial burden on property owners.



Visit the Capitol

On Monday through Friday, guided tours of the Capitol are available between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. with the last tour departing at 3:30 p.m.

On Saturday and Sunday, guided tours of the Capitol are available between 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. with the last tour departing at 3:30 p.m.

Tours of the Texas Capitol are free to the public.

Promoting Gun Safety

Gun safety is a critical issue that requires persistent advocacy and thoughtful legislation. In the next legislative session, we will focus on preventing gun violence, enhancing background checks, and ensuring firearms are kept out of the wrong hands. Promoting gun safety is vital for protecting our communities and ensuring a safer environment for all.

EMPOWERING & RECOGNIZING ALL TEXANS

Community Engagement and Advocacy

Our commitment to House District 76 extends beyond legislative efforts in Austin; it includes active engagement with the community and advocacy on a national level. Whether addressing local needs, fostering positive change, or advocating for our constituents in Washington, DC, we believe that meaningful connections with community members and organizations are essential. We can better serve our district by understanding and addressing the unique challenges we face. Here are some highlights of our recent community involvement and advocacy initiatives.

Advocating for you in Washington, DC: A recent visit to Washington, DC, brought the voices of House District 76 to the halls of power. Meetings with White House staff and members of Congress focused on critical community issues, emphasizing leadership, compassion, and courage in pursuing peaceful solutions. This advocacy reflects our commitment to addressing local and global challenges, ensuring the district's concerns reach and are heard at the highest levels of government.



Lalani visits Washington D.C. to advocate for his constituents.

Celebrating Eagle Scout Achievements: My staff had the honor of awarding certificates to three outstanding local boys, Avery, Brendan, and Mason, who achieved the highest rank in Eagle Scouting earlier this week. Aaron, an Eagle Scout himself, attended the ceremony to honor their remarkable accomplishments and celebrated with Troop 1656 and their proud families. It was a joyous occasion recognizing the dedication, hard work, and community spirit that Scouting embodies.



Rep. Lalani's staff awards certificates to Eagle Scouts.

Fort Bend Mental Health Round Table: Our office organized a Fort Bend Mental Health Round Table to review best practices, address current challenges, and discuss future legislation related to mental health. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers and staff working with special needs individuals. As the IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) population continues to rise, proactive care becomes crucial. Our mission is to provide equal opportunities for everyone, regardless of abilities or challenges, so they can flourish and contribute fully to society.



Rep. Lalani and community members at the House District 76 Mental Health and IDD Roundtable.

★ ★ **ELECTION DAY** ★ ★
TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 5TH

**POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.
ON ELECTION DAY**

**EARLY VOTING:
OCTOBER 21–NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER:
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH**

**CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION
STATUS AT [VOTETEXAS.GOV](https://www.votetexas.gov)**



District 76 ★ Contact Us

CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. Box 2910, E1.512
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
(512) 463-0596

DISTRICT OFFICES:
12550 Emily Court, St. 300
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
(281) 494-0151

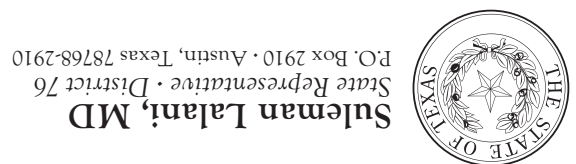
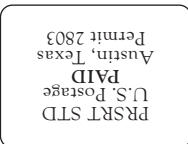
Committees: Higher Education • Natural Resources • Resolutions Calendars

Suleman.Lalani@house.texas.gov

Follow us on X (Formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram

REPRESENTATIVE SULEMAN LALANI, M.D.

88th Legislative Update Newsletter • Fall 2024



IMPORTANT MESSAGE:



We value your feedback and want to hear from you! Scan the QR code to email us at district76.lalani@house.texas.gov

- 1 What are the three most pressing issues facing our community?
- 2 Are you interested in helping us with legislation? If so, what are your three main interests?

You can also mail your feedback to: **REP. SULEMAN LALANI**
P.O. Box 2910 | Austin, TX 78768

